(b) the number of such cases that have been detected in the last three years and outcome thereof;

(c) the major measures and devices envisaged and implemented to arrest such misuse and malpractice; and

(d) the steps Government would take to eliminate this malody once and for all within a short span of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Information Technology Sector is not causing any new types of categories of misuse and malpractices *perse.* However, this technology like others is also vulnerable to be used as tool for such misuse and malpractices that can be committed through other means as well.

(b) Two cases of using Information Technology for certain unlawful activities have come to our notice but the same are under examination by the judiciary in India and final status is not known yet.

(c) and (d) An Expert Committee has been set up to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 in the light of the recent developments nationally and internationally and propose appropriate amendments. Its work is going on.

Necessary actions as per the recommendations of the Expert Committee would be taken on priority.

Setting up of rural telephony

3754. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount disbursed for Universal Service Obligation Fund during the financial year 2003-04;

(b) the number of villages where telephone facility has been provided during the above period by agencies to which these funds were disbursed; and

(c) the target fixed for current financial year and average amount spent per village for setting up of rural telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The

amount of Rs.200/- crore allocated to USOF during the financial year 2003-04 has been fully disbursed during that year.

(b) As on 31.3.2004, Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 5,06,622 villages were provided with subsidy support for operation, maintenance and for replacement of MARR VPTs.

(c) The activity wise details of the target fixed for current financial year and average amount spent per village for setting up of rural telephony are given in the Statement.

Statement

Activity wise details of the target fixed for current financial year and average amount spent per village for setting up of rural telephony

(i) Out of total 1,86,642 Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs which are to be replaced, more than 50% have already been replaced by reliable technology. Balance MARR VPTs are likely to be replaced by June 2006. The average amount of subsidy is Rs. 14,600/- per annum per VPT.

(ii) Agreements have been signed with BSNL and Reliance Infocomm for provisioning of 46,253 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages with population more than 2000 and without a public phone facility other than a VPT. The roll out period fo 3 years is with effect from September 2004 (20% in first year, 40% in second year and 40% in third year). The average amount of subsidy would be Rs.23,945/- as one time front loaded subsidy and Rs.2,257/-per annum for 5 years. So far 1917 RCPs have been installed.

(iii) Agreements have been signed with BSNL in November 2004 for providing VPTs in 66,822 remaining uncovered villages with a roll out period of 3 years (20% in first year, 40% in second year and 40% in third year). The average amount of subsidy would be Rs.1.00 lakh as one time front loaded subsidy for phones on satellite technology with Rs.11,274 per annum for 5 years per VPT. The front loaded subsidy and annual subsidy for VPT on any other technology would be Rs.25,000/- and Rs. 3,710/-respectively. So far 1456 villages have been covered.

(iv) Agreements have been signed with BSNL and two Private Operators in March 2005 for providing subsidy support towards provision of Individual Rural household Direct Exchange Lines

(RDELs) installed after 1.4.2005 in the eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), where cost of providing telephone connection is more than the revenue earned. As per agreement conditions, the Universal Service Provider (USP) should provide at least 100 line per Secondary Switching Area (SSA) within six months of the effective date of agreement. Thereafter all the waitlisted subscribers are to be provided with rural telephones within a period of three months in these SDCAs. Support is also being provided to the RDELs already installed in these areas during the period 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2005.

Maintaining of call details records

3755. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Internet Telephony on Voice Over Internet Protocol(VOIP) is causing concern among the Indian Security agencies, as such calls made to overseas parties, leave no trace of calls being made at all;

(b) whether several Internet Telephony Service Providers in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab are selling calling cards of different unregistered overseas companies;

(c) whether ITSP licencees maintain call details records, as a part of the licensing conditions;

(d) whether apart from security considerations, such clandestine operations by ITSPs cause severe revenue loss to the Centre; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid at the Table of the House.

Formation of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Committee

3756. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider formation of a full-fledged Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Committee on the lines of All India Haj